



Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

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Governor's Office of Storm Recovery Announces Completion of Emergency Response Improvements Across Nassau County

Upgraded Traffic Signals Now Able Withstand Power Outages

Nassau County, N.Y. - The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the completion of a \$300,000 project to improve emergency response throughout Nassau County in priority locations across Seaford, Wantagh, Baldwin, Bellmore, Merrick, and Massapequa. The project included upgrades to make traffic lights better withstand power outages.

Traffic signals across these communities were outfitted with transfer switches that connect to portable power sources. The project will enhance traffic safety and improve emergency preparedness by allowing traffic lights to remain operational during power failures.

GOSR Executive Director Katie Brennan said, "By upgrading traffic signals across the South Shore, we can keep our roadways as safe as possible for residents and first responders during major storms and other emergencies. This project is another example of how GOSR's grassroots community-driven process is improving safety and preparedness throughout Nassau County."

As part of the project, 122 transfer switches were installed at major intersections along Merrick Road and other South Shore thoroughfares including Mill Road, Broadway, Wantagh, Baldwin Road, and Carmans Road. The intersections are vital routes for emergency responders and will make navigating the streets in the event of a storm far safer.

During Superstorm Sandy, power outages from severe flooding that impacted the electrical network and major roadways kept traffic signals from functioning, which impeded residents and emergency responders from safely navigating streets. These new transfer switches will prevent traffic signal failure in the event of flooding and other emergencies so that families can safely navigate roads and first responders can efficiently come to the aid of communities.

Senator John E. Brooks said, "All of us on Long Island have witnessed firsthand the negative effects that power outages from major storms, like Hurricane Sandy, can wreak on public safety. I am very grateful to the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery for acknowledging the severity that such disruptions can have on emergency response measures and for taking the necessary steps to bolster emergency preparedness."

Assemblywoman Judy Griffin said, "I have been a consistent champion of investing in our local infrastructure, both to create quality union jobs and be better prepared for future severe storms that seem to come more frequently every year. The completion of this vital New York State project to upgrade the traffic lights in our communities along the South Shore and across Nassau County will not

only make sure a critical part of our transportation system is more resilient during emergencies but keep our families safer every day while driving or walking in our downtowns and local neighborhoods. I want to thank the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery for being a responsive partner in the ongoing effort to learn from the lessons of Sandy to protect Long Island's future."

Assemblyman David G. McDonough said, "I am glad to see that this is being done as it is important for the safety of motorists and to provide for a quick response for emergency vehicles when necessary."

About GOSR

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business, Community Reconstruction, Infrastructure, and Rebuild by Design programs, GOSR invests \$4.5 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funding to better prepare New York for extreme weather events. More information about GOSR and its programs is available at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.

Through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction and Infrastructure Programs, the State takes on a variety of initiatives developed during its bottom-up community planning process to improve resiliency, protect critical infrastructure, mitigate the risks of loss and damage associated with future disasters, and reduce hardship. Now in the implementation stage, GOSR works with a variety of municipal, county, and non-profit partners to bring hundreds of locally devised proposals to fruition.

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